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NORTHERN KENTUCKY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# The Feedline

## ARISS "CONTINGENCY NETWORK" IMPRESSES NASA

ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 44

When Russian flight controllers encountered difficulties during a recent International Space Station cargo rocket docking, NASA called on a special -- although little-known -- Amateur Radio team to stand by if needed. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Ops Team "ISS Ham Contingency Network" volunteers around the world immediately swung into action. Within 15 minutes of receiving the call from Johnson Space Center, Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, reported the ISS Ham Contingency Network was ready to provide any necessary communication support.

"The ARISS teamwork was very effective," ARISS Secretary-Treasurer Rosalie White, K1STO said. "Its members learned a great deal, and they impressed NASA with how quickly the system was brought up."

During the October 26 Progress docking, NASA says, Russian flight controllers were unable to confirm whether an automated antenna on the rocket had retracted as commanded. If still extended, the antenna could have interfered with the final latching of the supply ship to the ISS. To avoid disturbing the softly docked cargo ship and to aid the crew with docking maneuvers, the ISS orientation was allowed to drift freely. During free-drift mode, however, the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) -- which handles communication between the crew and Mission Control in Houston -- can be lost. That's because the station's solar arrays may not directly face the sun, causing a drop in onboard power.

Awakened at 2 AM, ARISS Australian team member Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, put out a blind call on VHF to the ISS crew, although no answer was needed at that point. Others available to cover later passes included Gerald Klatzko, ZS6BTD, in South Africa; Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, at ON4ISS in Belgium; Dick Flagg, AH6NM, and Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, at Sacred Hearts Academy in Honolulu; and Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and Mark Steiner, K3MS, at the Goddard Space Flight Center's WA3NAN. Each of these Earth stations has a track record of being able to sustain reliable communication with the ISS.

The call-up marked the first time that NASA had asked for such Amateur Radio assistance since the initial crew came aboard the ISS in November 2000. Ransom says that by remaining available to ensure solid communication while Mission Control staff dealt with the docking issue, the ISS Ham Contingency Network provided Mission Control with an additional layer of security.

Once the antenna retraction problem was resolved, the contingency network stood down, but NASA's request and the ensuing ham radio activity did serve as a valuable drill, ARISS said.

NASA says Expedition 14 Commander Mike Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK, and flight engineers Mikhail Tyurin, RZ3FT, and Thomas Reiter, DF4TR, opened the hatch to the supply ship October 27 to unload supplies.

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 11 - KY QSO Party
- November 13—Membership meeting  
Officer Elections
- December ? - Dinner Get Together
- January 8 - Membership Meeting

# NKARC Directory

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147.255+ 444.350+ Edgewood, 147.375+ Walton, 146.895+ Highland Heights  
Nets

N. KY. Amateur Club Net: Tuesdays, 7:30 PM on the 147.255+

—WEB Site—

WWW.K4CO.ORG

**Membership meetings on the 2nd Monday** at 7:30 PM, Turkeyfoot Middle School, 3230 Turkeyfoot Rd in Edgewood

**Board meetings: TBA**

The Feedline is published monthly by and for the members of the

Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club.

Permission is hereby granted to any non-profit amateur radio group to quote or reprint from this publication provided appropriate source credit is given.

Submissions to The Feedline must be received no later than the last Monday of the month prior to publication. Submissions should be of 500 words or less, and **in electronic format**. Submissions, address or call changes and circulation problems may be sent to The Feedline Editor: Brian Clark W4SOU: 385 Green Acres Rd, Owenton, KY 40359 — Email: w4sou@bellsouth.net

# October Meeting Minutes

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The Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club's October meeting was called to order by President Tony White, AI4IP, at 7:30 p.m. at the Turkey Foot Middle School in Edgewood, Kentucky.

Self introductions followed the pledge to the flag.

The September minutes were approved with one correction. Dave Schmidt's call sign is KI4QH.

Three VE test were given tonight, however, no results were available.

We still need volunteers for the nominating committee.

Wally Treller, KE4PEM, is doing well, however, he cannot drive.

We need a Feedline editor for 2007.

Tony White asked if anyone knew of any regulations that would prevent the club from soliciting funds. Ken Rood, KZ5KR, thought that if permission is given, it is OK to do it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Bob Burns, AB4BK, won split the pot.

This evening's program was presented by Lynn Ernst, WD8JAW. Two topics were presented. The first one was on volunteering for Tall Stacks communications. The second one was on his Island on the Air activity that he participated in with OH-KY-IN members on Deer Isle, Maine this past summer.

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## October Net Report

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DATE	NCS	CHECKINS	TIME	TRAFFIC
10/3/06	KG4SBG	12	30	0
10/10/06	KG4SBG	7	20	0
10/17/06	KB4VKS	8	25	1
10/24/06	KI4QG	8	13	1
10/31/06	KI4QG	8	27	1
TOTALS		43	115	3

# Weaver's Words

**Jim Weaver, K8JE**

**Great Lakes Division Director, ARRL**

## **DEE LOGAN WINS SILVER ANTENNA AWARD**

Congratulations to D.E. "Dee" Logan, WIHEO, of Mentor, OH. Dee is the 2006 winner of the Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award for long-time demonstration of success in Amateur Radio public relations. Dee led a team of amateurs in the Cleveland Area who developed "The North-east Ohio Ham Radio Project." This effort pulled together nearly all resources needed to interest and guide people in becoming Amateur Radio operators. One part of the project involves an excellent video that is available to any club to use in its recruiting effort. The video is available to clubs in the general Cleveland area that become a member of the overall recruitment project. There is a fee for this membership and the video. The video is also available to clubs outside the area for a lesser fee. Contact Dee for details.

Incidentally, the very first McGan recipient was Ohio SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE.

## **RED CROSS BACKGROUND CHECKS**

I doubt if anyone believes the Red Cross should blindly accept just anyone who comes in off the street as a trusted volunteer. Most people who volunteer are fine, upstanding citizens who have the highest motives; however, there are those among the public who are . . . well . . . dishonorable. Just imagine what injury folks with perverted ideas of honesty could do to disaster victims and their property during relief operations. The Red Cross has responded to the risk of having dishonorable people try to infiltrate its ranks by turning to background checks for all employees and volunteers.

I believe the Red Cross has the right and duty to keep unscrupulous people from joining its ranks. I also believe it has the right to require, somehow, background checks for all its personnel -- paid or not. The Red Cross needs a way to determine the honesty of its workers as best it can. When it comes to most volunteers, this is where I draw the proverbial line. Requiring background checks for criminal activity is one thing. Requiring permission to do credit checks and more is just too much for non-employees, but this is precisely what Red Cross is doing.

As one ham who is a long-time officer in his local Red Cross Chapter said, "The Red Cross is requiring volunteers to grant permission for more than just a criminal background check, they are also requiring permission to draw a consumer and/or investigative consumer report on the volunteer. This would

include a criminal background check, credit check and a mode of living check."

The ham Red Cross Chapter official? He authorized his superiors to do a criminal check, only. He still has his position at the Chapter.

Incidentally, some amateurs have expressed concern that MyBackgroundcheck.com that does the checking will have access to all of the credit and personal information on persons who have been checked even though Red Cross says they do not want it, themselves. Frankly, I'd trust the Red Cross folks that I know long before I'd trust many other people.

My suggestion: Read carefully what is being demanded and be sure you are willing to agree with it. If you agree, by all means give your consent to the full background check. If you don't agree, don't give your consent. You might even try sending a letter to your local chapter giving consent for them to do a criminal check but withholding your consent to other checks. Use your personal judgment.



## **NO RACES FREQUENCIES = NO RACES?**

A few people have asked if FCC's abolishing special RACES frequencies means it plans to abolish RACES. It may come as a shock to some of you, but I don't know just what is in the minds of the folks at FCC. I discovered my crystal ball was broken when they issued the recent omnibus Report & Order. Nonetheless, I strongly doubt they plan to abolish RACES.

Instead of looking behind the abolishment of RACES frequencies for an ulterior motive, why not look at it at face value. The change that will take effect 30 days after the new rules are published will open amateur frequencies to use by RACES. RACES is being freed to operate anywhere in the ham bands the local RACES brass want it to operate. My money is on RACES being around for quite some time.

## **CW ON 80 M**

In spite of the misinformation being spread by some people, ARRL neither petitioned nor wanted FCC to drop the 75 M phone band down to 3600 kHz. We asked them to drop the phone band edge to 3725 kHz. This represented an increase in the phone band of 25 kHz. This 3725 kHz is also the lower band edge proposed by the Commission in its NPRM two years ago. Imagine our surprise when the Commission announced the phone band edge would be 3600. Not only does this make things difficult for the many NTS and other 80 M

**Please see "Weaver", page 7**

# Situational Awareness

**Ron Dodson, KA4MAP**

**SEC Ky**

Just what is Situational Awareness? It is really nothing more than paying attention to your surroundings. The purpose behind Situational Awareness is to avoid being surprised. Surprise has a bad effect upon a person's ability to mount a successful response. Properly used, Situational Awareness increases our response time by letting us anticipate an event to allow us to plan a response or even multiple alternative responses sooner. It was originally an aviation term used to describe a pilot's awareness of tactical situations during <http://www.answers.com/topic/aerial-warfare> aerial warfare. It has now been adopted not only throughout the <http://www.answers.com/topic/aviation> aviation industry, but is increasingly used for issues of homeland security as well as any other dynamic or complex situations which require human control and rapid decision making processes.



Understanding situational awareness or the accurate reading of the different types of environments and pre-incident indicators can allow you to create one or more contingency plans, which increase your level of safety and preparedness to act. Situational awareness starts with focused attention. Stay focused on the current situation, such as with driving. This focus is directed at your surroundings. Take the time to actually look at things and not just glance over them. Consider scenarios and possible realistic events that could occur as you drive in this example. Are you too close to a car ahead of you? What if a child or animal ran into the roadway and the car ahead slams on their brakes? Would a wider distance between you two be safer?

One night recently we were driving through a heavy rain with fog and seriously reduced visibilities. While we had slowed down to a speed comfortable for the hydroplane-prone road conditions and poor visibility, most vehicles sped around us at the interstate's posted 70 MPH speed limit! While I am sure they all considered us and a few others who also slowed in the right lane as "Traffic Hazards", what would have happened should they need to stop in a short distance due to something or someone in the roadway?

Situational Awareness means taking on a different attitude. This attitude is one that is proactive and will allow you to identify potential dangers as well as pre-plan some response possibilities well in advance. Anything that takes your focus off the situation is referred to as a "distracter". A cell phone call, changing the channel on your car stereo, digging for a CD or someone asking you for directions, etc. can often break your concentration just enough and there you have just been involved in an accident. Always expect the unexpected! Driving a route you have driven for many years without incident it

is easy to get a complacent attitude that you are perfectly safe. Surprise events are just that, surprises! They can occur any time, anywhere. Anticipate and consider what COULD happen even though it has not or even may not!

Disasters and lesser emergencies are like that too. Situational Awareness means gathering data. Bet you caught the ball scores this morning. Did you also get the weather report and any breaking local, state or national/international events? Yes, surprise events do occur, but you lessen the chance of being caught off guard if you are aware of certain indicators that may show themselves.

Situational Awareness means thinking ahead and considering things not staring you in the face. Past history is a great way to gauge many current events. We know that terrorists have attacked the US before and may again. We know that home-grown terrorism is also possible and has already occurred. We know that we live in earthquake country. If we have been paying attention we will know that numerous quakes are occurring around the globe and more than one hundred minor tremors have occurred in the last six months along the New Madrid Seismic Zone alone.

Situational Awareness means planning ahead. We know winter is coming. The vehicle needs winterized; battery, tires, wipers etc. need checked. We know we SHOULD HAVE already created home and auto disaster supplies kits and family disaster plans (BUT HAVE WE?).

Situational Awareness means exercising caution. How many of us would erect an antenna near a power line? (Happens all the time as do the funerals of those who have a mishap doing it!) If you see someone holding a gun, will you stop and ask them for directions? If you are about to enter a building and you see either people fleeing the building holding their heads or stomachs or some lying around appearing unconscious, will you still go on in? We know electrical fires can destroy our homes, yet how many come the holidays will grab a roll of electrical tape to salvage a light set with frayed wires valued at under \$10 in replacement costs? (Bet your home costs more than \$10!) While some of the above examples are serious and others lighter hearted, there is someone out there somewhere who could answer yes to them all!

While a learned behavior, Situational Awareness varies to a wide degree from individual to individual. We all get stressed from work and seek out someplace to "zone out" for a while. Trouble is that far too many stay more in the relaxed mode than in a lesser aware mode. This is how many people get themselves into fixes simply because they did not consider that anything could, would or is going on that **Please see "Awareness", page 6**

# FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON TWO AMATEUR RADIO RULE MAKING PETITIONS

## ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No 44

The FCC has invited comments on two Amateur Radio-related petitions for rule making. Both petitioners seek changes in the FCC's Part 97 Amateur Service station identification rules, specifically §97.119(a). That rule now requires stations to identify "at the end of each communication, and at least every ten minutes during a communication . . ."

RM-11346, filed December 9, 2005, by Murray Green, K3BEQ, would raise the required ID interval to 30 minutes as well as at the end of each communication. Green argues in his petition that while he has no problem with the Commission's requirement that Amateur Radio stations identify, "less frequent identification should not hinder the Commission's enforcement of Amateur Radio regulations, as demonstrated by the station identification requirements for other radio services." He suggests the current 10-minute requirement is a result of "an abundance of caution" on the FCC's part.

A second petition, RM-11347, filed May 19, 2006, by Glen Zook, K9STH, would revise §97.119(a) to more closely resemble the old FCC §12.82(a) Transmission of call signs rule. The FCC's Amateur Radio Service rules were under Part 12 prior to a revision that put them under Part 97.

In what he calls "a minor but important change," Zook proposes requiring radio amateurs to transmit the call sign(s) of

stations with which they are in communication plus their own call sign at the start and end of each single transmission or of a series of transmissions between stations in communication "each transmission of which is of less than three minutes' duration" (operators could omit the ID at the end when the entire series is less than three minutes), at least every 10 minutes during a series of transmissions between stations in communication, and at least every 10 minutes during any single transmission more than 10 minutes long.

"Unfortunately, too many Amateur Radio operators, especially when using FM repeaters, do not identify during their first transmission," Zook asserts in his petitions. "In fact, a considerable number of these operators never seem to get around to identifying even after 10 minutes of operation and a 'fair' number never seem to get around to giving their call sign at all."

Zook believes his suggested changes will "clarify the existing regulations and to help eliminate problems with station identification in the Amateur Radio Service" and actually legalize some commonplace on-air station identification behavior.

Comments on these petitions are due by November 29. Interested parties may file using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). In the "Proceeding" field, commenter should enter the full petition identifier with "RM" in capital letters followed by the hyphen and the five digit number.

Kentucky QSO Party -- CW/Phone, sponsored by the Western KY DX Association from 1400Z Nov 11-0600Z Nov 12.

Frequencies (MHz): CW -- 1.815 and 60 kHz above band edge; SSB -- 1.840, 3.985, 7.285, 14.285, 21.385, 28.585.

Exchange: RS(T) and KY county or S/P/C.

QSO points: 160 meters -- 2 pts, CW -- 2 pts, SSB -- 1 pt.

Score: QSO points × KY counties (KY stations add states and provinces) counted only once. KY mobiles add 1000 points for each activated county, min 10 QSOs (not incl home county). 100 bonus points for QSO with KY4DXA.

For more information: k4txj@arrl.net.

Logs due Dec 31 to Western Kentucky DX Association, PO Box 73, Alvaton, KY 42122.

## AWARENESS (from page 5)

can have a negative impact upon them, their families or others. During the recent flooding events several failed to consider the possibility that heavy rains could cause loss of service to phones and infrastructure. Phone trees and listserv's are nice, but we must consider the possibilities that they may fail before someone can call to warn or activate us. Being aware of our surroundings and alert to possible scenarios in which we might need to be alert to possible activation as opposed to kicking back and turning off the world is the one alarm system which cannot fail us if we just use it properly.

We are unique in the respect that we are radio amateurs. Keepers of the one medium that does not fail to keep us "in-touch" if we will just let it. No, we can't monitor a battery powered radio 24/7/365, but we can let events that we see, hear and feel; make us more aware of possible dangers and occurrences. Situational Awareness can let us see possibilities in the world around us. Once we learn to observe, interpret, consider and plan ahead; we have the ability to turn a switch, a knob, or a dial and do that which others cannot always do: COMMUNICATE!

## **WEAVER (from page 4)**

CW nets, and casual CW QSOs, but it thoroughly jumbles the situation for RTTY and data modes that are no longer permitted on 80. Bummer.

Speaking of CW, ARRL also has also not asked FCC to abolish all Morse testing for Amateur Radio licensing exams. We petitioned to have the

exam dropped for General licensees. This tactic was based upon the knowledge CW would be dropped totally if we did not develop a counter strategy to FCC internal thinking to drop all Morse testing. The strategy acknowledges that Morse testing will be lost for Generals regardless of what we do. At the same time, we're trying to keep it for Extras. The idea is to keep Morse as one means of making the Extra Class license something extra. Will even this strategy work. I'm hopeful, but not holding my breath.

When will the FCC release its decision on Morse testing? My crystal ball is still broken, but I'm guessing it will not take nearly so long as it took them to release the omnibus Report & Order.

One final word on Morse testing: Even if the Commission abolishes all Morse testing, CW will remain the primary mode of operation for a great many current hams. I'm included among this number. It will even become the primary mode of operation for a great many new hams. A still greater number of hams -- new and old -- will use it to some extent. Abolishing Morse code testing as a licensing requirement will not of itself doom Morse to extinction.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

It is time to apply for ARRL Foundation scholarships. Over 40 scholarships ranging in value from about \$10,000 to \$300 are available. The sponsors of some of the scholarships have designated them for specific categories of applicants; however, many are open to all amateurs who are furthering their education. For information on the scholarships and the application form, go to <http://www.arrl.org/arrlf/scholgen.html>.

The Great Lakes Division has been well represented among scholarship winners during recent years. I'm sure there are a few more worthy candidates in our three states.

## **SW OHIO DIGITAL SYMPOSIUM**

The annual SW Ohio Digital Symposium is January 13 with registration beginning at 8 AM and sessions at 9. This is not a hamfest/swap. It is a place for the typical and not-so-typical ham to come to learn the practical operation of PSK-31, software defined radio (SDR), D-Star, WinLink 2000 and more.

This is an opportunity to advance the typical technology of Amateur Radio beyond CW, SSB and FM. The Symposium is at the Miami University Middletown, OH, campus in Thesken Hall. Directions and program information are at [www.swohdigi.org](http://www.swohdigi.org). Additional information can be obtained from Jay Slough, K4ZLE at [k4zle@arrl.net](mailto:k4zle@arrl.net).

## **W1AW SCHEDULE CHANGE**

In case you want to copy W1AW code practice or bulletins and can't find what you want, check its new schedule. This schedule is at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

## **W8GEX WRITES ON EARLY OPERATION FROM NEW DX ENTITY**

Joe Pater, W8GEX, is a well-known DXer member of the Southwest Ohio DX Association. A resident of Hamilton, OH, Joe arranged for a DXpedition of a few friends to new DX entity Montenegro. He wrote of the trials and tribulations of forming this DXpedition in the fall issue of the International DX Association (INDEXA) newsletter. It was a relatively small DXpedition as DXpeditions go, but provided many new contacts to the worthy with this new country. Contacts were with 406DX.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

I'm getting back into the swing of things now that I've pretty well recovered from back surgery. My tentative schedule at this moment is as follows:

Nov. 17-19: A&F Meeting, Newington, CT.  
Jan. 9: 20/9 Meeting, Canfield, OH.  
Jan. 13: SW OH Digital Symposium, Middletown, OH.  
Jan. 18: A&F Meeting, Newington, CT.  
Jan. 19-20: Board of Directors Meeting, Newington, CT.  
Feb. 11: Mansfield Hamfest, Mansfield, OH.  
May 18-20: Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH.  
Sep. 9: Findlay Hamfest, Findlay, OH.

If you wish me to come to your meeting or other event, please let me know.

Tnx for your support of ARRL. Your backing is very important to the well being of Amateur Radio. Please consider becoming a worker in the new ARRL Legislative Action Program. Several amateurs throughout the Division have volunteered, but we still need additional help if we are to cover all of the US Representatives and Senators in our three states. Contact Division Legislative Action Chair Val Rose, N8EXV ([n8exv@arrl.net](mailto:n8exv@arrl.net)) or me ([k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org)) for information. The job requires such little time and can provide such great benefit to Amateur Radio.



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